

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Soil and Water Conservation – Administration

Purpose and History

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the General Assembly enacted [HF 2525](#) (Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Act) that appropriated funds to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) to pay for administrative expenditures in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. This included payment for administration of soil and water conservation programs and to reimburse expenditures incurred by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

There are several conservation programs in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. The following is a summary of programs funded from the Environment First Fund:

- Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share – Provides financial incentives to landowners that implement approved soil and water conservation practices. State funds are divided among the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The landowner pays for at least 50.0% of the cost of the practice.
- Watershed Protection Program – Awards funds for development grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement watershed strategies.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Implements wetlands that are strategically located to remove nitrates from cropped areas that have tile-drainage.
- Conservation Reserve Program – Establishes long-term revegetation for landowners. The landowner enters into a 15-year contract with the federal Department of Agriculture. State funding supports the hiring of Soil and Water Conservation District technicians who assist landowners with planning and implementation and provides one-time payments to landowners who establish continuous conservation practices such as contour buffer strips.
- Farm Demonstration Program or Integrated Farm and Livestock Program – Contracts with Iowa State University Extension to implement emerging farm practices that protect the state's water resources and prevent soil erosion. Projects focus on livestock production and crop techniques that reduce manure application, nitrogen levels, and tillage.
- State Watershed Protection Practices – Provides cost-share incentives to landowners to establish practices that improve water quality protection needs. State funding is a 20.0% allocation from the [Resource Enhancement and Protection \(REAP\) Fund](#).

Funding History

Funding has varied over the years, but the average appropriation for the past five years is \$2.6 million from the Environment First Fund.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [161A](#)
[27](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapters [1](#) and [10](#)

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More Information

Division of Soil Conservation Division: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/soilConservation.asp>

Conservation Districts of Iowa: <http://www.cdiowa.org>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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